

In Reply Refer To:
8500 (240) P

Instruction Memorandum No.
Expires: 09/30/2001

To: AD's, DSDs for Resources and Lands, SO Wilderness Program Leads

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources & Planning

Subject: Procedures for Filing Wilderness Maps 6/19/00

Specific wording in legislation designating wilderness areas for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should provide, and so far has provided, direction for creating official wilderness maps and legal descriptions, where and how such maps are to be provided for public reference, and requirements for filing with congressional committees. Typical of the language would be direction such as the following, copied from Pub. L. 103-433, the California Desert Protection Act, **with bold emphasis added**.

“(b) Map and Legal Descriptions.--As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of section 102, the Secretary concerned shall file a map and legal description for each wilderness area designated under this title with the **Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives**. Each such map and description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this title, except that the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, may correct clerical and typographical errors in each such legal description and map. Each such map and legal description **shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, or the Chief of the Forest Service, as appropriate.**

The goal of this guidance is to establish a consistent pattern of action to assure that each of the provisions of such wilderness legislation requirements are properly considered and consistently performed and recorded. It is important to realize that the requirements do not end with the mapping and typing of legal descriptions. In effect, the job is not done until the paperwork is complete.

Using the attached sample of transmitting 20 sets of California wilderness area maps and legal descriptions, anticipate and recommend each BLM State Office use the following process for filing future wilderness area maps and legal descriptions.

1. Control of the process will be handled by the appropriate State Office function because they have the responsibility for maintaining the Bureau's serialized case files, including the ones relating to the wilderness maps in question.

2. General Guidance to follow will be from:

- A. The Act designating the wilderness area(s) in question.
- B. Bureau Manual H-8560-1 Management of Designated Wilderness Areas, more specifically - Chapter II - Congressionally Required Maps and Boundary Descriptions.
- C. State-specific guidance. NOTE: An excellent example to follow here is the California Desert District Office Instruction Memorandum No. CDD-96-14 titled "Procedures for Review of Draft Legal Descriptions for BLM Wilderness"

3. A serialized wilderness case file will be assembled for each wilderness area. The file is the critical repository for all legal and descriptive documentation and will be maintained to survive as the Bureau's permanent legal record for these actions.
4. Until the completed wilderness map packages have been filed with the appropriate Congressional Committee [or such other action as mandated by the Congress], the legislative maps will be the official, definitive, and only maps considered for wilderness management decisions. When proposed actions are in the vicinity of a portion of an unclear boundary on a legislative map, it must be remembered that boundary descriptions and maps are not final (and therefore should not be used) until filed with the appropriate committees.

NOTE: It is critically important that evidence of such filing be secured and posted to each affected serialized wilderness case file as promptly as possible after delivery of the map packages to the committees. See below for examples of receipts to be used and recorded in such serialized files. Receipts shall be executed and obtained to provide evidence of successful delivery of each such map and legal description to the committees and the repository maintained by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Director, Bureau of Land Management, where the BLM copy of each such map shall be filed and available for public inspection.

5. Completed map packages from the submitting State Office of the BLM will be in multi-part file folders, containing: a cover memorandum from State Director or designee listing the wilderness areas and actions being submitted; citation of the legislation designating the wilderness area(s); maps and legal descriptions of each such area with its related serialized case file number; and, if appropriate, an executive summary of problems which might be encountered by the Director or others when such packages are filed with the Congressional committee.

Maps should be cut to fit the file folder and each folder labeled with the name of the wilderness area and the State Office transmitting the package.

6. Six (6) copies of each completed map package will be transmitted to the Washington Office Legislative Affairs Group (or successor organization) for coordination, review, and delivery to the repository in the DOI and to the Committees. Typically, the map packages will be reviewed and approved by the Washington Office wilderness program staff before formal transmittal from the Legislative Affairs office.
7. Transfer of the map packages shall be accomplished by personal delivery by selected WO wilderness or legislative staff, with appropriate receipts executed and returned for each delivery. Each receipt must list the correct serial case number(s) for each map file delivered, with the date of delivery and the signature of the authorized person receiving the delivery. This enables the receipt to be copied and posted in each corresponding serialized case file in the originating BLM state office.

REMEMBER, the receipt is an important legal record. It must be executed promptly and promptly transmitted to the originating office. The maps are legal when delivered, but that information is generally useless until evidence of the delivery resides in the legal case records.

Following delivery of the maps and execution of the appropriate receipt, receipts shall be copied and filed in the Legislative Affairs and Wilderness program files. The "original" copies promptly transmitted to the generating State Office for entry in the appropriate land record files.

Questions concerning this process should be addressed to the Group Manager of Cultural Heritage, Wilderness, Special Areas and Paleontology Group, (202) 219-1100.

5 Attachments: (list)

EXAMPLE TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE
EXAMPLE TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE COMMITTEE
EXAMPLE: RECEIPT FROM THE COMMITTEE
EXAMPLE: RECEIPT FROM THE COMMITTEE
EXAMPLE: RECEIPT FROM DOI REPOSITORY

EXAMPLE TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO HOUSE COMMITTEE

Honorable Don Young, Chairman
Committee on Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6201

Dear Chairman Young:

The Bureau of Land Management is transmitting with this letter the final copies of the legal descriptions and boundary maps for 20 wilderness areas created in the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, Public Law 103-433. They are provided pursuant to the language in section 103(b) of the Act. The wilderness areas represented in this transmittal are:

El Centro (California) Field Office:

Carrizo Gorge Wilderness	14,722 Acres
Coyote Mountains Wilderness	18,595 Acres
Fish Creek Wilderness	20,598 Acres
Indian Pass Wilderness	32,016 Acres
Jacumba Wilderness	31,130 Acres
Little Picacho Wilderness	37,554 Acres
North Algodones Dunes Wilderness	25,871 Acres
Palo Verde Mountains Wilderness	29,749 Acres
Picacho Peak Wilderness	18,805 Acres
Sawtooth Mountains Wilderness	30,679 Acres

Palm Springs (California) Field Office:

Big Maria Mountains Wilderness	41,000 Acres
Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness	84,000 Acres
Little Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness	27,048 Acres
Mecca Hills Wilderness	25,364 Acres
Orocopia Mountains Wilderness	43,851 Acres
Palen/McCoy Wilderness	211,747 Acres
Rice Valley Wilderness	41,357 Acres
Riverside Mountains Wilderness	24,038 Acres
San Geronio Wilderness	35,199 Acres
Santa Rosa Wilderness	50,445 Acres

Additional copies of each map and legal description will be on file and available for public inspection in the repository office maintained for the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and for other agencies, in the Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.

Maps and legal descriptions for the remaining wilderness areas will be transmitted promptly when they are completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Manager
Legislative Affairs Group

Enclosures (20): Wilderness Maps and Legal Descriptions

Draft

EXAMPLE TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO SENATE COMMITTEE

Honorable Frank Murkowski, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6150

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

The Bureau of Land Management is transmitting with this letter the final copies of the legal descriptions and boundary maps for 20 wilderness areas created in the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, Public Law 103-433. They are provided pursuant to the language of section 103(b) of the Act. The wilderness areas represented in this transmittal are:

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Sawtooth Mountains Wilderness	50,679 Acres

Palm Springs (California) Field Office:

Big Maria Mountains Wilderness	4,000 Acres
Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness	8,000 Acres
Little Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness	27,048 Acres
Mecca Hills Wilderness	35,364 Acres
Orocopia Mountains Wilderness	43,851 Acres
Palen/McCoy Wilderness	211,747 Acres
Rice Valley Wilderness	41,357 Acres
Riverside Mountains Wilderness	24,038 Acres
San Geronio Wilderness	35,199 Acres
Santa Rosa Wilderness	50,445 Acres

Additional copies are being provided to the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives. Copies of each such map and legal description will be on file and available for public inspection in the repository office maintained for the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and for other agencies, in the Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.

Maps and legal descriptions for the remaining wilderness areas will be transmitted promptly when they are completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Manager
Legislative Affairs Group

Enclosures (20): Wilderness Maps and Legal Descriptions

Draft

EXAMPLE: RECEIPT FROM SENATE COMMITTEE

MAP RECEIPT

On today's date, I received from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) the official maps and legal descriptions for the wilderness areas listed below. Pursuant to Section 103(b) of Public Law 103-433, the California Desert Protection Act, a copy is to be filed with this committee and the Committee on Natural Resources of the U. S. House of Representatives. Each such map and legal description shall also be on file and available for public inspection in the repository office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

WILDERNESS AREAS:

El Centro (California) Field Office:

CARRIZO GORGE WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035067	18,354 Acres
COYOTE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035074	20,598 Acres
FISH CREEK MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035079	32,016 Acres
INDIAN PASS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035085	31,130 Acres
JACUMBA WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035087	37,554 Acres
LITTLE PICACHO WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035092	25,870 Acres
NORTH ALGODONES DUNES WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035099	29,149 Acres
PALO VERDE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035106	8,805 Acres
PICACHO PEAK WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035108	30,679 Acres
SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035110	

Palm Springs (California) Field Office:

BIG MARIA MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035061	45,520 Acres
CHUCKWALLA MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035070	84,335 Acres
LITTLE CHUCKWALLA MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035091	27,048 Acres
MECCA HILLS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035092	25,364 Acres
OROCOPIA MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035102	43,851 Acres
PALEN/McCOY WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035105	211,747 Acres
RICE VALLEY WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035111	41,357 Acres
RIVERSIDE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035112	24,038 Acres
SAN GORGONIO WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035116	35,199 Acres
SANTA ROSA WILDERNESS	Case # CACA 035117	50,445 Acres

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Office: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate
Washington, DC 20540-6150

EXAMPLE: RECEIPT FROM HOUSE COMMITTEE

MAP RECEIPT

On today's date, I received from the Bureau of Land Management the official maps and legal descriptions for the wilderness areas listed below. Pursuant to Section 103(b) of Public Law 103-433, the California Desert Protection Act, a copy is to be filed with this committee and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U. S. Senate. Each such map and legal description shall also be on file and available for public inspection in the repository office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

WILDERNESS AREAS:

El Centro (California) Field Office:

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Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Office: Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20545-6201

EXAMPLE: RECEIPT FROM DOI REPOSITORY

MAP RECEIPT

On today's date, I received from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) the official maps and legal descriptions for the wilderness areas listed below. Pursuant to Section 103(b) of Public Law 103-433, the California Desert Protection Act, a copy is to be on file in this office, as the repository for the office of the Director of the BLM, Department of the Interior. (Other copies are to be filed by the BLM with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U. S. Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the U. S. House of Representatives.)

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El Centro (California) Field Office:

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Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Office: DOI Document Management Team

Room: 141 in Interior Building, Washington, D. C. 20240